Public Distribution System

1068. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of existing Public Distribution System in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring about some changes in existing Public Distribution System;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government convened any conference with State Chief Ministers in this connection;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the time by which the existing Public Distribution System is likely to be modified?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The existing Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility by the Central Government and the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government has taken the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of items such as rice, wheat, sugar, imported edible oil, kerosene and soft coke. The State Governments/UT Administrations have the responsibility for distributing the same to the consumers within their States/UTs. .The operational aspects including inter-district/intra region allocations, opening of fair price shops, eligibility criteria, periodicity of availability, distribution of additional items and enforcement measures are within the jurisdiction of the State Governments/UT Administrations. The PDS was revamped in 1992 and 1775 blocks are covered under various area specific programmes like Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Designated Hill Areas (DHA), which are eligible for specially subsidised foodgrains under the scheme.

(b) to (f). A conference of Chief Ministers on Basic Minimum Serivces, was held on 4th and 5th July, 1996 where the question of streamlining the PDS with its focus on the poor was discussed. The conference welcomed the proposal to streamline the PDS with focus on the population below the poverty line. The details for streamlining the PDS are being worked out and once they are furnished, it will be implemented.

Opening of New Godowns

1069. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the districts in Kerala which are identified for setting up of new godowns under Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether the construction work of new FCI godowns has commenced in the State;

(c) if so, the time by which the construction work of these godowns likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the time by which the construction work of these godowns likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI D EVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The following districts in Kerala have been identified for setting up new godowns by the Food Corporation of India subject to availability of suitable land by the State Government and availability of funds also.

1. Idukki District - Moolamattam (5,000 MT)
2. Wynad District - Meenangadi (5,000 MT)
3. Kannur District - Payyanur (25,000 MT)
4. Malapuram District - Thirunavayya (25,000 MT)
5. Alapuzha District - Mararikulam (10,000 MT).

(b) to (d). The construction of new FCI godowns has not commenced. However, the works at Moolamattam (Idukki District), Meenangadi (Wynad District) and Payyanur (Kannur District) are likely to commence during 1996-97, those at the remaining two centres in Malapuram and Alapuzha Districts is likely to be taken up in 1997-98.

Telecasting of Assembly Proceedings

1070. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from various States to introduce live telecasting of the proceedings of the Assemblies;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Doordarshan have received requests from National Capital Region of Delhi, Union Territory of Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Kerala, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Sikkim for coverage of Assembly proceedings like Governor's address, Budget speech, Question hour etc.

(c) Doordarshan is unable to provide live coverage of the proceedings of State Legislative Assemblies on account of constraints of manpower, infrastructural facilities and resources.